

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) An image compression device comprising:
an encoding unit performing predictive coding of an input video sequence having a plurality of frames;
a first unit leaving a first set of frames at predetermined intervals in the input video sequence to cause the encoding unit to perform predictive coding of the first set of frames;
a second unit discarding a second set of frames, which lie between two frames of the first set of frames in the input video sequence, to cause the encoding unit to skip each frame in the second set of frames and perform predictive coding of a corresponding one frame of the first set of frames immediately preceding thea frame from the second set of frames; and
an output unit outputting only encoded data of the first set of frames created by the encoding unit in association with the first unit as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence.
2. (Currently Amended) The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the first set of frames that are left are either intra-coded pictures or predictive-coded pictures that are contained and left in the input video sequence, and the second set of frames which are discarded are predictive-coded pictures that are contained in the input video sequence and discarded by the second unit.
3. (Currently Amended) The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the encoded data of the first set of frames created by the encoding unit is stored in a storage device having a predetermined storage capacity as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence.
4. (Original) The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the encoding unit, the first unit, the second unit and the output unit are arranged in an MPEG2 encoder.
5. (Original) The image compression device according to claim 1 wherein the encoding unit and the output unit are arranged in an MPEG2 encoder, and the first unit and the

second unit are arranged in an external control unit connected to the MPEG2 encoder.

6. (Currently Amended) An image compression method comprising the steps of: leaving a first set of frames at predetermined intervals in an input video sequence having a plurality of frames to cause an encoding unit to perform predictive coding of the first set of frames, said encoding unit performing predictive coding of the input video sequence;

discarding a second set of frames, which lie between two frames of the first set of frames in the input video sequence, to cause the encoding unit to skip each frame in the second set of frames and perform predictive coding of a corresponding one frame of the first set of frames immediately preceding the a frame from the second set of frames; and

outputting only encoded data of the first set of frames created by the encoding unit in association with the leaving step as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence.

7. (Currently Amended) The image compression method according to claim 6 wherein the first set of frames that are left are either intra-coded pictures or predictive-coded pictures that are contained and left in the input video sequence, and the second set of frames which are discarded are predictive-coded pictures that are contained in the input video sequence and discarded by the second unit.

8. (Currently Amended) The image compression device according to claim 6 wherein the encoded data of the first set of frames created by the encoding unit is stored in a storage device having a predetermined storage capacity as a result of the predictive coding of the entire input video sequence.

9. (Original) The image compression method according to claim 6 wherein the encoding unit is arranged in an MPEG2 encoder, and the MPEG2 encoder performs the predictive coding, the leaving step, the discarding step and the outputting step.

10. (Original) The image compression method according to claim 6 wherein the encoding unit is arranged in an MPEG2 encoder so that the MPEG2 encoder performs the predictive coding and the outputting step, and an external control unit connected to the MPEG2 encoder is arranged so that the external control unit performs the leaving step and the discarding step.